

AMENDED CLAIMS IN CLEAN FORM

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(i)

IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 10/25/01

1. An absorbent article having a longitudinal center line and a lateral centerline, comprising;

(a) a containment assembly having a rear waist region, a crotch region, a front waist region, a pair of longitudinal edges, a body facing surface and a garment facing surface opposite to the body facing surface, the containment assembly comprising a topsheet, a backsheet joined to the topsheet, an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of barrier leg cuffs having a proximal edge and a distal edge and being positioned adjacent to the longitudinal edges of the containment assembly;

(b) a pair of rear ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the rear waist region;

(c) a pair of front ear panels extending laterally outwardly from the proximal edges of the barrier leg cuff in the front waist region; and

(d) a reinforcement nonwoven joined to an inner-facing surface of the backsheet and to at least one of either the rear ear panels or the front ear panels, the reinforcement nonwoven not substantially overlapping the containment assembly.